

THE SKATING FAD BRINGS ITS OWN FASHIONS



A wee cap, demure but dashing, is of leopard, seal and kolinsky, has a hat and muff to match. The skirt is plum leather and tan leather and beaver. From Gidding & Co.

Black leather cuffs distinguish this smart little suit of Engladine, which is ramified with many buttons. From Abercrombie & Fitch.

With scarf collar and reversible reverse this skating suit of black and brown Escorta, is both cold-proof and good looking.

Of mustard chiffon velvet, this gay flaring coat has the added attractions of four pockets and much sealskin fur. From Bonwit Teller & Co.

By Carolyn Trowbridge Radnor-Lewis.

"Do you skate?"
"Can you waltz?"
"Isn't pirouetting thrilling?"

Such are the queries that bombard you where two or three of the "weaker" sex are gathered for luncheon or tea. Not to have acquired the gentle art of balancing yourself on a ridge of steel is to admit yourself hopelessly out of it—"it" meaning society—for the ability to pirouette and waltz on the ice is to be the password to social entertainments this season. The gymnasts on ice are going to skate straight into the stronghold of society, just as the golfers drove their way, the bridgers played and paid the game, and the dancers fairly flung wide open the hitherto closed doors.

To those who have looked askance at this leveling of the social bars, there may be comfort in the thought that the number of applicants this winter will be limited, for to waltz and one-step on the glassy surface of a rink or pond is a very different feat from the performance on terra firma. And they who defy many a spill and the attendant aftermaths surely deserve whatever recompense may result from hearing their pet names on the lips of a social leader of newspaper fame. Spills there will be a-plenty, and as one after another drops out we shall chatter glibly of sprained ankles, bruised shins and water on the knee, as we have in the past of appendicitis, game legs and nervous breakdowns.

THE RAISON D'ETRE OF WEEK-END PARTIES.

Though skating as a social introduction is a product of this season, the feat itself is associated in the minds of most men and women with the days when they slipped and slid over the ice on the mill ponds and dared the leader to crack the whip to send them spinning. Only a very few have kept the ankles limbered and the body supple by continuing these ice sports while time has been chopping off the years. But for the last two or three winters, skating has been the *raison d'être* of many a week-end party at Tuxedo, and at even more distant country spots up the state. The members of these house parties were genuine enthusiasts, who spent a large portion of the daylight, and not a little of the moonlight, whirling over the ice, cutting all manner of fancy figures and dancing as easily and as gracefully as on the floor of a ballroom.

For a costume, the women selected a skirt of stout material, wide enough to give freedom and short enough for comfort, a warm woolly sweater, a fur or wool muffler, lined gloves and a snug-fitting, wind-defying hat. There were no frills, no accessories; the one thought was comfort.

And to-day? There are suits and coats, dresses and blouses, hats and furs, sweaters and mufflers, in silks, velvets, wools and kids—

For the Dancing on Ice-Covered Ballroom Floors This Winter There Are Costumes as New and Original as This Newest of Town Diversions.

practically every nook and corner of the fashion world has been invaded by the skating craze. Why? Because the enthusiasts have brought skating from the country to the city. The roller skating rinks have flooded their floors, the dancing palaces are turning the space devoted formerly to the wooing of Terpsichore into stretches of ice, and the hotels are advertising an ice rink as one of the attractions. Society has shown the inclination to skate; fashion is supplying every possible type of costume to add to the allurements, and the proprietors of the pleasure places are providing the necessary background.

A FASHION SHOW ON SKATES.

The most recent development is a fashion show on skates. We have sipped our tea and watched the mannequins in fashion's latest edict pass from table to table; we have leaned back in the orchestra chairs and viewed them as they tripped through a playlet on the stage; we have nibbled at supper waiting for them to display a couturier's newest creations, and now we shall watch them skate in the costumes fashion has decreed as being appropriate for the sport. Tuesday afternoon, just at tea hour, the first of these fashion shows will be held at the St. Nicholas Rink, and seven young models will demonstrate just how comfortable and good-looking are the costumes provided by Spalding. From the tips of their hats—and perhaps it was a fur tip—to the points of their high boots, or rather, to the curve of their skates, they will present the skating girl in various conceptions of the correct costume, for the day of the simple woolly sweater and tweed sport skirt has gone. There are the trig suits for the morning classes, the more dressy costumes for the afternoon, and the still more elaborate creations for the evening; there are the blouses, which are revealed when the coat is cast aside for rink skating, and there are furs, which are added when the skater selects one of the outdoor rinks. There are sweaters of every conceivable material, and in all the vivid colors, and of mufflers, capes, muffs and gloves and other accessories there is no limit. The maker of modes must indeed lack imagination who cannot in some way tie his merchandise up with the needs of the skater.

The very fact that the highest price offered during the evening was paid for a skating suit of glazed kid at the recent auction following a fashion show at the Ritz-Carlton proves that the designers who have turned their brains and their fingers toward originations for the skating enthusiast are not working solely for glory. These kid suits, by the way, have more than novelty to recommend them, for they are practical and exceedingly good to look upon. Some women claim that the cloth skirt, an engladine, for instance, with the glazed kid coat is more comfortable, if not quite so sporty. And there is the headgear of the cloth, leather trimming, and the woolly scarf with its edging of the kid.

Such a suit is, to be sure, more appropriate for an out-of-door rink than for the indoor establishment. It would be very natty on the ice at the Biltmore, for this is to be an outdoor

rink with all the comforts of indoors on the side. The Italian gardens are being flooded and evergreens and other wintry shrubbery are to fringe the ice and delude the imagination

into believing that a bit of Tuxedo or the Adirondacks has been transplanted. And when Jack Frost nips the ears and kisses too strenuously the cheeks, there is the inclosed tearoom with a real fire made of real logs, which will crackle and sputter with all the zest and bluster of the genuine camp fire. Inviting cosy corners and a "wee nippy" will make even the dyed-in-the-wool skater confess that skating in New York is not such a bad imitation of the real sport.

Another type of costume that is going to find favor with both the outdoor and the indoor skater consists of a striped velvet skirt and a saucy godet jacket of plain velvet. The velvet for the skirt was not discovered in the dress-goods department. Oh, no, indeed! The upholstery department was the only place where material sufficiently heavy for the skating skirt could be found. And while black and white stripes have the first call, there are clever combinations of orange and gray, purple and taupe and yellow and blue. A muff of the same striped velvet and a tam-like arrangement of the plain velvet make up one of the most striking of the skating costumes, and yet one free from bizarre characteristics.

The cloth suits are legion. There are the many types of velours in all manner of soft, pretty colorings, for this material seems to fairly lap up the dye, and cloths with woolly rough faces which stamp them at once as ideal for sports usage. Nine out of ten of these suits will have received its baptism of fur. There will be a band weighting the bottom of the skirt, wide or narrow as the limits of the pocketbook, a high standing collar into which the chin and entire lower part of the face may hide itself, only the eyes peeping coquettishly out over the furry edge, deep cuffs extending in gauntlet fashion quite to the elbow, and perhaps a wide belt of the peltry. And if the suit is not otherwise fur trimmed it is sure to have the additional collar of fur, a collar so ambitious that it well deserves the name of cape. It, too, will have the muffler collar of the fur and, in addition, the pointed front and back pieces, which lend the cape suggestion. Other neck fixings are more frankly on the cape order, hugging the shoulders in true cape fashion and falling almost to the waistline.

PERHAPS A BRILLIANT FLASH OF PANTALETTE.

These capes are just the right accessory for the suits and dresses of a silky texture, and for afternoon and evening there are many of these more dressy costumes. Faille, the good oldtime grosgrain, heavy satins, khaki-kools and even woollen goods with a silky sheen, such as escorta, are used for these skating costumes, which, in design and line suggest their purpose rather than in material. Practically all of such costumes reflect the brilliant colorings which add the effective splashes of color to the rinks. And if a sombre tint is selected it is sure to be enlivened by flashes of bright red or orange or blue in the muffler, the head-

gear or the trimmings—and perhaps in the pantalettes!

The girl who has magic in her fingers can make at a very modest cost her cap and muffler. A strip of angora, a silk and wool combination cloth, or any of the soft woolly velours outlined in a very coarse buttonhole stitch in a vivid contrasting color make the nicest of mufflers, and the same idea can be carried out in the cap, which, if it is to be right up to the minute, should borrow its inspiration from the oldtime toboggan headgear, the extended crown weighted on the point by a ball of fur. Even the muff can be manufactured at home, for muff forms can now be bought in the shops, and it is a comparatively simple undertaking to cover them with the buttonholed wool material. If a more ambitious trimming is desired, there are jolly flower designs which can be developed in the bright colored worsteds, the fat, squashy roses, looking almost natural enough to pluck. The gay colored worsted fringes, too, can be knitted by the amateur, and don't forget to finish the pantalettes with a row.

FURS, FURS EVERYWHERE.

To even mention skating is to think of furs. And only the number of animals which may be robbed of their peltry limits the variety of furs that may be worn. The vogue for seal, beaver, skunk, and the other brown-tinted furs, is reflected in the skating costumes, but one only begins the list by mentioning these few. The all white costumes, which never show to better advantage than on the ice, are often completed by a white fur, and veritable snow maidens they make of the wearers. The magic combination is achieved by adding bands of the darker furs.

For the carnivals and the various evening affairs which are being planned, a dress is preferred to a suit. And here velvet is the chosen fabric. One particularly good-looking dress was of taupe-colored velvet with flashes of color in the Oriental embroidery and the inevitable band of dark fur on the bottom—not a bad idea, by the way, for it saves the edge of the skirt from any moisture from the ice. Stunning black velvet dresses, simple in line and discreetly decorated, are being ordered for evening wear by many of the best-dressed women who are spending their mornings at the rink in the hope of conquering the various fancy steps with which to surprise their cavaliers in the evening.

ITS FATE IS TO BE DETERMINED—BY THE MEN.

And how about the cavaliers? The couturiers have racked their brains to supply the feminine contingency with every possible accessory for the sport, but nothing is heard about the men. Surely the rink is not to be an Adamless Eden or the fate of skating will be settled before the fad is well under way. Few of the men beyond the college age have free mornings to brush up their steps and limber up muscles long unused to strenuous exercise. They accepted the dancing craze and quickly made themselves masters of the steps, but it will take many an afternoon stolen from business to learn again the trick of balance, so that they may compete with the women who are devoting hours every day to constant companionship with the ice—a bit too close for comfort many times. But, again, how about the men?



A white cloth skirt with blue banding and buttons, and over it a long, very flaring coat of bright blue cloth with white cape collar, cuffs and bandings. Muff and hat to match complete the costume. From Stein & Blaine.